

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SP-02 ICA-11 AID-05
NSC-05 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-07 OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00
ITC-01 AGRE-00 L-03 H-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10
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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8900

USDA/FAS WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION GENEVA

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USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY; USMTN; FAS FOR OYLOE, STROBEL,
RIESZ; STARKEY, STR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, GW

SUBJECT: RECLASSIFICATION OF PREPARED POULTRY PRODUCTS

1. MINAG OFFICIALS REPORT THAT IN THE MEETING OF THE
POULTRY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE LAST WEEK IN BRUSSELS
A DECISION WAS MADE TO RECLASSIFY PREPARED POULTRY
PRODUCTS AND MAKE THEM SUBJECT TO LEVIES, GATE PRICES,
AND MCAS.

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2. OUR CONTACTS INDICATED THAT THE MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS WERE BASED ON THE PRECEDENT
SET BY SALTED BEEF IMPORTS ABOUT ONE AND ONE-HALF
YEARS AGO. EC IMPORTS OF THESE PREPARED BEEF PRODUCTS
WERE APPARENTLY RECLASSIFIED AT THAT TIME AND PLACED
IN A HIGHER DUTY CATEGORY. THE RECLASSIFICATION OF
THE PREPARED POULTRY PRODUCTS HAS THE SUPPORT OF THE

FRG BECAUSE OF THE LARGE INCREASE IN IMPORTS WHICH HAS TAKEN PLACE, PARTICULARLY IN 1977. THE PROPOSAL IS TO MAKE TWO CATEGORIES UNDER BTN 16.02. CATEGORY A WOULD DEAL WITH COOKED PRODUCTS AND BE DUTIABLE AT 17 PERCENT AND CATEGORY B WOULD DEAL WITH OTHER PRODUCTS AND WOULD BE SUBJECT TO A LEVY, GATE PRICE AND MCAS.

3. THERE APPARENTLY HAVE BEEN SOME DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ISRAELIS AND THEY HAVE AGREED TO GIVE MINIMUM PRICE GUARANTEES UNDER ARTICLE 8 OF THE EC POULTRY CAP. SUCH GUARANTEES WOULD NOT SUBJECT THE ISRAELIS TO ANY SUPPLEMENTAL LEVIES IF RECLASSIFICATION TOOK PLACE.

4. AGATT ALSO CALLED MONTEL EC BRUSSELS AND HE STATED THAT COMMISSION OFFICIALS HAD RAISED THE QUESTION OF SEASONED POULTRY DURING THE US/EC BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS THIS WEEK. THEY POINTED OUT THEIR CONCERN ABOUT THE SHARP INCREASE IN IMPORTS INTO THE EC. ACCORDING TO COMMISSION DATA, EC IMPORTS OF THESE PRODUCTS IN BTN 16.02 INCREASED FROM AROUND 4,000 TONS ANNUALLY IN 1975 AND 1976, TO OVER 10,000 TONS IN 1977. THEY STATED ABOUT 80 PERCENT OF THESE PRODUCTS CAME FROM THE U.S. ACCORDING TO MONTEL, THE COMMISSION SAID THAT THEY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WERE PUTTING THE U.S. ON NOTICE. THEY CLAIMED U.S. EXPORTERS HAVE "SPRINKLED A LITTLE BIT OF SEASONING" ON POULTRY PRODUCTS SO THESE PRODUCTS COULD BE CALLED PREPARED AND HAVE THEN BEEN EXPORTING THESE PRODUCTS TO THE EC SUBJECT TO A 17 PERCENT AD VALOREM DUTY. THE COMMISSION OFFICIALS SAID THAT AT THE MOMENT THEY WOULD DO NOTHING ABOUT THIS MATTER, BUT HOPED THAT WE WOULD BE ABLE TO DO SOMETHING TO CONTROL IT. MONTEL HAS REPORTED THE ABOVE IN THE MISSION'S REPORTING CABLES ON THE US/EC BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS. STOESEL

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